

September 17, 2007

Mr. Gary Van Middlesworth
Site Vice President
Duane Arnold Energy Center
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING
RELIEF REQUEST FROM IWA-4221 TO ALLOW WELD PROCEDURE
SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEAL WELDING OF INSTALLED AND SPARE MAIN
STEAM RELIEF VALVES TO BE POST-QUALIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ASME SECTION IX REQUIREMENTS (TAC NO. MD6293)

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

By letter dated July 31, 2007, you requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval for a relief request (RR) for Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) to allow weld procedure specifications for seal welding of the installed and spare main steam relief valves to be post-qualified in accordance with American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Section IX requirements. The relief is requested for the fourth 10-year interval of the inservice inspection program for DAEC, which began on November 1, 2006.

In your application letter of July 31, 2007, you requested approval of this request by the end of October, 2007. The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of your application letter. Our review indicates that your RR cannot be processed within the requested schedule. We anticipate the need to request additional information (RAI). The associated RAI letter is currently planned to be provided to you in early 2008. The NRC staff anticipates being able to provide a response to your request prior to July 15, 2008.

In a phone call on September 5, 2007, with Tony Browning of your staff, I discussed the practicality of meeting the October 2007 request. Please confirm our mutual understanding of July 15, 2008, as the date of the expected response to your request.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3079.

Sincerely,

/ra/

Karl D. Feintuch, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

cc: See next page

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